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三月九日一千八百八十八年

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1888.

己亥年三月九日

PRICE, \$2 PER MONTH.

AGENTS FOR THE CHINA MAIL.

LONDON.—F. ALGAR, 11 & 12, Clement's Lane, Lombard Street, E.C. GEORGE STREET & CO., 30, Cornhill. GORDON & GOTCH, Ludgate Circus. BATES HENDY & CO., 37, Walbrook. E.C. SAMUEL DEAN & CO., 150 & 154, Leadenhall Street. W.M. WILLS, 151, Cannon Street, E.C.

PARIS AND EUROPE.—AMEDEE PRINCE & CO., 36, Rue Lafayette, Paris.

NEW YORK.—ANDREW WIND, 21, Park Row.

SAN FRANCISCO and American Posts generally.—BEAN & BLACK, San Francisco.

AUSTRALIA, TASMANIA, AND NEW ZEALAND.—GORDON & GOTCH, Milbourne and Sydenham.

CEYLON.—W. M. SMITH & CO., THE APOTHECARY CO., Colombo.

SINGAPORE, STRAITS, &c.—SAVAGE & CO., Square, Singapore. C. HEINZERLING & CO., Manila.

CHINA.—Macao, F. A. DE CRUZ, Saldanha, Quinta & Co.; Amoy, N. MOALE, Foochow; HEDGE & CO., Shanghai; LANE, CRAWFORD & CO., and KELLY & WALSH, Yokohama; LANE, CRAWFORD & CO., and KELLY & CO.

Banks.

NOTICE.

RULES OF THE HONGKONG SAVINGS' BANK.

1.—The business of the above Bank will be conducted by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, on their premises in Hongkong. Business hours on week-days, 10 to 3; Saturdays, 10 to 1.

2.—Sums less than \$1, or more than \$260 at one time will not be received. No depositor may deposit more than \$2,500 in any one year.

3.—Depositors in the Savings' Bank having \$100 or more at their credit may at their option transfer the same to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation on fixed deposit for 12 months at 5 per cent. per annum interest.

4.—Interest at the rate of 3% per cent. per annum will be allowed to depositors on their daily balances.

5.—Each Depositor will be supplied gratis with a Pass-Book which must be presented with each payment or withdrawal. Depositors must not make any entries themselves in their Pass-Books but should send them to be written up at least twice a year, about the beginning of January and beginning of July.

6.—Correspondence as to the business of the Bank if marked On Hongkong Savings' Bank Business is forwarded free by the various British Post Offices in Hongkong and China.

7.—Withdrawals may be made on demand, but the personal attendance of the depositor or his duly appointed agent, and the production of his Pass-Book are necessary.

For the HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION,

T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.

Hongkong, September 1, 1888. 754

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL, \$7,500,000
RESERVE FUND, \$5,900,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PRO-
PRIETORS, \$7,500,000

COUNCIL OF DIRECTORS.
Chairman—Hon. JOHN BELL IRVING.
Deputy Chairman—W. H. FORBES, Esq.
C. D. BOTTOMLEY, Hon. A. P. McLEWEN,
Esq. S. O. MICHAELSEN,
Esq. W. G. BRODIE, Esq.
H. L. DALBYMPLE, J. S. MOSES, Esq.
Esq. L. POSENBURG, Esq.
H. HOPPES, Esq.
B. LATTON, Esq.

CHIEF MANAGER.
Hongkong, THOMAS JACKSON, Esq.
MANAGER.
Shanghai, EVER CAMERON, Esq.
LONDON BANKERS.—London and County
Bank.

HONGKONG.
INTEREST ALLOWED.
On Current Deposit Account at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on the daily balance.

On Fixed Deposits—
For 3 months, 3 per cent. per annum.
" 6 " 4 per cent. "
" 12 " 5 per cent. "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.
Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts granted on London, and the chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.
Hongkong, January 25, 1888. 363

Notice of Film.

NOTICE.

M. R. GROVE has THIS DAY been Admitted a PARTNER in our Firm.
CHATER & VERNON.

Hongkong, January 1, 1888. 5

Intimations.

NOTICE.

PERSONS having CLAIMS against the Undersigned are requested to send them before the 10th Instant.

H. G. THOMSETT,
Hongkong, February 27, 1888. 324

J. D. KILEY, SAIL-MAKER.

TENTS, AWNINGS AND
FLAGS.

No. 23, Praya Central,
HONGKONG.

Hongkong, November 1, 1887. 2135

Intimations.

THE CHINA SUGAR REFINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

THE Tenth Ordinary Annual MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company will be held at the Office of the GENERAL AGENTS, Pedder's Street, on SATURDAY, the 10th March, at Noon, for the purpose of receiving a Report of the General Agents, with a Statement of Accounts to 31st December, 1887.

The Transfer BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 25th February until 10th March, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., General Agents.

Hongkong, February 18, 1888. 262

THE LUZON SUGAR REFINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

THE Sixth Ordinary Annual MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company will be held at the Office of the GENERAL AGENTS, Pedder's Street, on SATURDAY, the 10th March, at 12.30 p.m., for the purpose of receiving a Report from the General Agents, with a Statement of Account to the 31st December, 1887.

The Transfer BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 25th February until the 10th March, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., General Agents.

Hongkong, February 18, 1888. 263

HONGKONG AMATEUR ATHLETIC SPORTS.

NOTICE.

GENTLEMEN interested in ATHLETIC SPORTS are requested to attend a MEETING to be held in the GYMNASIUM of the Victoria Recreation Club on SATURDAY, the 10th March, 1888, at 6 p.m., for the purpose of receiving Accounts, electing Officers and arranging the Programme of This Year's Sports.

For the Committee;

L. F. HAYLLAR.

Hongkong, March 3, 1888. 389

THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

THE Fourth Ordinary General MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Office of the Company, Praya Central, on TUESDAY, 13th March, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the General Managers, and electing a Consulting Committee and Auditors.

RUSSELL & CO., General Managers.

Hongkong, March 5, 1888. 372

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOOK COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

SHIPMASTERS and ENGINEERS are respectfully informed that, upon their arrival in this Harbour, NONE of the Company's FOREMEN should be at hand, Orders for REPAIRS if sent to the HEAD OFFICE, No. 14, Praya Central, will receive prompt attention.

In the Event of Complaints being found necessary, Communication with the Under-signer is requested, when immediate steps will be taken to rectify the cause of dissatisfaction.

D. GILLIES, Secretary.

Hongkong, August 25, 1885. 1458

DENTISTRY.

FIRST CLASS WORKMANSHIP.

MODERATE FEES.

MR. WONG TAI-FONG, Surgeon Dentist, FORMERLY ARTICLED APPRENTICE AND LATTELLY ASSISTANT TO DR. ROGERS.

AT the urgent request of his European and American patients and friends, has TAKEN THE OFFICE formerly occupied by DR. ROGERS,

No. 2, DUDDELL STREET.

CONSULTATION FREE.

Discount to Missionaries and Families.

Soil Address

2, DUDDELL STREET,
(Next to the New Oriental Bank.)

Hongkong, January 12, 1887. 68

THE HONGKONG AND KOWLOON WHARF AND GODOWN COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE is hereby given that all VESSELS

DISCHARGING BOMBAY COTTON AND COTTON YARN AT THE KOWLOON WHARVES will have FREE STORAGE for 14 days from arrival, after which a Rent of 3 CENTS per bale per month will be charged.

ISAAC HUGHES, Secretary.

Hongkong, November 7, 1887. 2148

CHAS. J. GAUPP & CO., Chronometer, Watch & Clock Makers, Jewellers, Gold & Silversmiths.

NAUTICAL, SCIENTIFIC AND METEOROLOGICAL INSTRUMENTS.

VOYAGEURS' CELEBRATED BINOCULARS AND TELESCOPES.

RETRAIT LIQUIDS AND OTHER COMPASSES.

ADMIRALTY & IMRAY CHARTS.

ENGLISH SILVER & ELECTRO-PLATEDWARE.

CHRISTIE & CO'S ELECTRO-PLATEDWARE.

GOLD & SILVER JEWELLERY.

A Splendid Collection of the Latest London PATTERNS, a very moderate price.

SAILOR'S HOME.

A NY Case of Clothing, Books, &

PAPERS will be thankfully received

at the Sailor's Home, West Point.

Hongkong, July 20, 1887. 370

NOTICE OF FILM.

NOTICE.

M. R. GROVE has THIS DAY been

Admitted a PARTNER in our Firm.

CHATER & VERNON.

Hongkong, January 1, 1888. 5

Business Notices.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

MUSIC. For Violin.

CRAMER'S STUDIES. ASA'S ETUDES.

M. RODE'S CAPRICES.

ZANGER'S PIECES CARACTÉRISTIQUES for 2

Violin. Duets.

Rovelli's CAPRICES.

Kreutzer's STUDIES.

Florillo's CAPRICCI.

Handel's LARGO.

Rameau's GAVOTTE.

Heller's COMPOSITIONS.

NEW SONGS. by Tosti, Molloy, Dibdin, Moir, Isidor de La, Wellington, etc. cito.

NEW VALSES, LANCERS, QUADRilles and POLkas.

LATEST LONDON SUCCESS—OLD TIMES COACH GALOP (vocal obligato), by Crowe, author of See Saw, etc.

Etc. Etc. Etc.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

Hongkong, March 7, 1888. 384

NEW GOODS.

ROBT. LANG & CO.

Hongkong, February 21, 1888. 285

DE JONG'S PURE SOLUBLE COCOA,

THE 'ACME' OF ALL PURE COCOAS, MAKES THE MOST DELICIOUS.

HOT OR COLD AND ICED COCOA AND CHOCOLATE.

D. REHNER, the well-known Public Analyst, reports:—A SAMPLE OF DE JONG'S

PURE SOLUBLE COCOA having been submitted to me, I have much pleasure in

stating that I found it to be of ABSOLUTE PURITY and of the HIGHEST EXCELLENCE.

It surpasses in delicacy of AROMA and RICHNESS of taste the best kinds of similar COCOAS, which have hitherto been offered to the public.

This COCO

Mails.

Notices to Consignees.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.
STEAMSHIP PORT PHILLIP.
FROM LONDON.

STEAM FOR
SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO,
ADEN, SUEZ, PORT SAID,
MALTA, MARSEILLES, GIBRALTAR,
BRINDISI, VENICE,
PLYMOUTH, AND LONDON:
ALSO,

BOMBAY, MADRAS, CALCUTTA, AND
AUSTRALIA.

N.B.—Cargo can be taken on through Bills
of Lading for BATAVIA, PERSIAN
GULF PORTS, MARSEILLES,
TRISTE, HAMBURG, NEW YORK
AND BOSTON.

SPECIE ONLY LANDED AT PLYMOUTH.

THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM
NAVIGATION COMPANY'S Steamship
OLYMPIC, Captain E. M. EDMOND, with
Her Majesty's Mails, will be despatched
from this port, LONDON, via BOMBAY
and SUZAN CANAL, on THURSDAY, the
15th March, at Daylight.

Cargo will be received on board until
4 p.m. on the day previous to sailing.

Parcels and Specie (Gold) at the Office
until 2 p.m., on the day previous to sailing.

Ten, Silk and Valuables for Europe
will be transhipped at Colombo; General
Cargo for London will be conveyed
via Bombay without transhipment, arriving
there later than by the ordinary direct
route via Colombo.

For further Particulars regarding
the FREIGHT and PASSAGE, apply to
the PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION
COMPANY'S Office, Hongkong.

The Contents and Value of Packages are
required to be declared prior to shipment.

Shippers are particularly requested to
note the terms and conditions of the
Company's Black Bills of Lading.

Passengers desirous of insuring their bag-
gage can do so on application at the Com-
pany's Office.

E. L. WOODIN,
Superintendent.

P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Office,
Hongkong, March 3, 1888. 361

NORDDEUTSCHE LLOYD.

NOTICE.

STEAM FOR
SINGAPORE, COLOMBO, ADEN,
SUEZ, PORT SAID,
TRISTE, BRINDISI, GENOA,
ANTWERP, BREMEN & HAMBURG,
PORTS IN THE LEVANT, BLACK
SEA & BALTO PORTS;
ALSO,
LONDON, NEW YORK, BOSTON,
BALTIMORE, NEW ORLEANS,
GALVESTON & SOUTH AMERICAN
PORTS.

THE COMPANY'S STEAMERS WILL CALL
AT SOUTHAMPTON TO LAND PASSENGERS
AND LUGGAGE.

N.B.—Cargo can be taken on through Bills
of Lading for the principal places in
RUSSIA.

ON MONDAY, the 19th day of March,
1888, at 4 p.m., the Company's
Steamship SACHSEN, Captain A. JACOB,
with MAILS, PASSENGERS, SPECIE
and GARGO, will leave this port as above,
calling at GENOA.

Shipping Orders will be granted till
Noon. Cargo will be received on board
until 4 p.m., Specie and Parcels until 3
p.m. on the 18th March. (Parcels are
not to be sent on board; they must be
left at the AGENCY'S Office). Contents and
Value of Packages are required.

The Steamer has splendid Accommodation
and carries a Doctor and Stewardess.

For further Particulars, apply to
DAVID SASSOON, SONS & CO.,
Agents.

Hongkong, February 20, 1888. 377

NOTICE.

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES
MARITIMES.

PAQUEROTS POSTE FRANCAIS.

STEAM FOR
SAIGON, SINGAPORE, BATAVIA,
COLOMBO, PONDICHERRY,
MADRAS, CALCUTTA, ADEN, SUEZ,
PORT SAID,
MEDITERRANEAN AND
BLACK SEA PORTS, ALEXANDRIA,
MARSEILLES, AND PORTS
OF BRAZIL, AND LA PLATA;

ALSO,
LONDON, HAVRE, BORDEAUX,
DUNKIRK AND ANTWERP.

ON WEDNESDAY, the 21st March,
1888, at Noon, the Company's
S.S. ANDYER, Commandant DELACOURT,
with MAILS, PASSENGERS, SPECIE
and GARGO, will leave this Port for the
above places.

Cargo and Specie will be registered for
London as well as for Marseilles, and ac-
cepted in transit through Marseilles for the
principal places of Europe.

Shipping Orders will be granted until

Cargo will be received on board until 4
p.m., Specie and Parcels until 3 p.m.
on the 20th March, 1888. (Parcels are not
to be sent on board; they must be left at
the AGENCY'S Office.)

Contents and value of Packages are re-
quired.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

SIEMSEN & CO.

Hongkong, March 9, 1888. 393

INSURANCES.

QUEEN FIRE INSURANCE COM-
PANY.

THE Undesignated AGENTS for the above
Company, are prepared to ACCEPT
RISKS against FIRE at Current Rates.

NORTON & CO.,
Agents.

Hongkong, July 15, 1887. 1340

NORTH BRITISH & MERCANTILE
INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undesignated AGENTS of the above
Company, are authorized to insure
against FIRE at Current Rates.

GILMAN & CO.

Hongkong, January 1, 1882. 34

To-day's Advertisements.

FOR SHANGHAI.

The Steamship—
Amy,
Captain R. K. KELLEN, will
be despatched for the
above Port TO-MORROW, the 10th Inst.,
at Noon, instead of as previously notified.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

SIEMSEN & CO.

Hongkong, March 9, 1888. 393

THE SCOTTISH ORIENTAL STEAM-
SHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, SINGAPORE AND
BANGKOK.

The Company's Steamer
Montagu.

Captain G. A. ANDREWSON,
will be despatched for the
above Ports on SUNDAY, the 11th Inst.,
at 8 a.m.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

YUEN FAT HONG,
Agents.

Hongkong, March 9, 1888. 400

NOT Responsible for Debts.

Neither the Captain, the Agents, nor
Owners will be Responsible for
any Debt contracted by the Officers or
Crew of the following Vessels, during
their stay in Hongkong Harbour:

Axius Rowe, Hawaiian brig, Captain J.
Phillips.—Wieland & Co.

Axon, British barque, Capt. A. J. Comyn.
Tung Sang Woo.

B. P. CHEENEY, American ship, Captain
Hughes—Douglas, Laprade & Co.

CENTENNIAL, American ship, Captain L.
M. Beane.—Russell & Co.

HARRY E. TAYLOR, British ship, Capt.
J. McCannachy.—Gibb, Morrison & Co.

Manz, Spanish barque, Capt. J. J. Salva.
Rebolledo & Co.

To-day's Advertisements.

THE CHINESE INSURANCE
COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Seven-
teenth Ordinary MEETING of the
SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company
will be held at the Head Office, Victoria,
Hongkong, at Noon, on FRIDAY, the 23rd
Instant, to receive the Report of Directors,
together with the Statement of Accounts
to the 31st December, 1887.

The Transfer BOOKS of the Company
will be CLOSED from the 16th to the 23rd
Instant, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board,

SAM'L J. GOWER,
Secretary.

Hongkong, March 9, 1888. 401

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

March 8, 1888.—

Atsing, German steamer, 400, T. Samuel-
son, Pakhoi and Hollow March 7. General.—
WILHELM & CO.

March 9.—

Biscaia, Italian steamer, 1,499, AL.
Tognazzi, Bombay February 18, and
Singapore March 2, General—CANTOWIRZ
& CO.

Decina, German steamer, 965, P. Oest-
mann, Saigon March 4, Rice and Paddy.—
STEINMESS & CO.

Glucksburg, German str., 97, Ad. Schulz,
Saigon March 4, Rice and General.—
MECHERS & CO.

Tritos, German str., 1,142, A. Bleickon,
Saigon March 4, Rice—EDWARD SCHELL-
HORN & CO.

Kong Bong, British steamer, 862, F. W.
Phillips, Bangkok March 2, Rice and
General.—YUEN FAT HONG.

Fookang, British steamer, from Whampoa.

Peckili, British steamer, from Whampoa.

Serpdon, British steamer, 1,592, Chirimes,
Amoy March 8, General—BITTERFIELD &
SWILK.

DEPARTURES.

March 9.—

Folke, for Swatow.
Frei, for Haiphong.
Taipan, for Singapore and Sydney.
Suptima, for Saigon.
Taiwan, for Whampoa.

Thysra, for Chefoo.

CLEARED.

Amoy, for Shanghai.
Doraville, for Swatow.
Sarthe, for Saigon.

Port Phillip, for Yokohama.

Fookang, for Swatow and Shanghai.
Telakots, for Nagasaki.

Chi Yuen, for Swatow.

Xe-ia, for Manila.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Amoy, from Pakhoi, &c., Mr. Mo-
Gandis, and 143 Chinese.

Per Biscaia, from Singapore, 160 Chinese.

Per Glucksburg, from Saigon, Chinese Com-
pany.

Per Tritos, from Saigon, 32 Chinese.

Per Serpdon, from Amoy, Mrs. Mc-
Intyre and 2 children, and 87 Chinese.

DEPARTED.

Per Folke, for Swatow, 100 Chinese.

Per Frei, for Haiphong, 50 Chinese.

Per Suptima, for Saigon, 70 Chinese.

Per Taipan, for Singapore, 2 Europeans,
and 63 Chinese.

Per Fookang, for Swatow, 1 European.

Per Peckili, for Tamsui, Mr. W. D.
Spence.

Per Thysra, for Chefoo, 12 Chinese.

To DEPART.

Per Amoy, for Shanghai, 7 Chinese.

Per Doraville, for Swatow, 100 Chinese.

Per Port Phillip, for Yokohama, 1 Euro-
pean.

Per Fookang, for Swatow, 1 European,
and 15 Chinese.

Per Chi-Yuen, for Swatow, 500 Chinese.

Per Xenia, for Manila, 2 Europeans.

SHIPPING REPORTS.

The Italian steamer Biringo reports:
Left Singapore on the 2nd instant, had fine
weather throughout.

The German steamer Leicina reports:
Left Saigon on the 4th instant, had moderate
breeze.

The British steamer Kong Beno reports:
Had moderate to fresh N.E. winds and high
sea from port to port.

The British steamer Serpdon reports:
Left Amoy on the 8th instant, had fine
weather throughout the passage.

POST OFFICE NOTICES.

MATES will close.—

For NAGASAKI.—

Per Teletos, at 11.30 a.m., on Saturday,
the 10th inst., instead of as previously
notified.

For SHANTUNG.—

Per Amoy, at 11.30 a.m., on Saturday,
the 10th inst., instead of as previously
notified.

For SINGAPORE.—

Per Polymnia, at 3.30 p.m., on Saturday,
the 10th inst.

For YOKOHAMA & KOBE.—

Per Medea, at 3.30 p.m., on Saturday,
the 10th inst.

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obtained the largest number of votes, and they were declared elected.

Mr Dalrymple proposed that the Hon. P. Ryrie be elected Chairman, and the Hon. J. Bell Irving, Vice Chairman.

Mr Boilios seconded and the motion was carried.

This concluded the business of the general meeting.

MEETING ON THE IMPORTS AND EXPORTS BILL.

A special meeting of the Chamber was then held to consider the proposed Imports and Exports Ordinance. Most of the members who attended the general meeting remained.

Hon. Mr Ryrie.—Gentlemen, I hope all of you here have read this bill and also the schedule attached to it. I may mention in the first place that it was introduced having in this matter by representatives of Government doing business in this Colony. They had grave objection to this bill, and I must say I have the same myself. I have objected to it from the first and on that point I may refer you to the remarks I made at this time last year at the general meeting of the Chamber of Commerce. I have always considered the bill impracticable, or, if practicable, it would involve a very considerable expense and a very considerable amount of trouble to importers and exporters, perhaps more especially to importers, because as a rule there is very little difficulty in obtaining returns of export cargoes, I mean to Americans or European ports; these in fact can be gathered by this Chamber. But to importers of goods of a complicated nature, or of very small packages—which I have sometimes seen three or four different descriptions of goods—I think it would entail an infinity of trouble. I also think that the restrictions it would impose on agents of steamers in this Colony are entirely unwarantable. In fact I can't see what the good of such a bill in this Colony would be at all.

Of course it is stated that one great object of the bill is to place this Colony before the world and show what a large business is done here. Well, gentlemen, I think the world generally, the monetary centres at all events, where loans might be raised, know pretty well the position of the Colony and that it does a very considerable amount of trade. (Applause). As to the quantity of trade we have it from a late Governor that it is the fourth port in the world. However, I dare say there are gentlemen here who can speak to the actual details of the bill much better than I can do, and I shall be glad to hear the views of some of all of them. (Applause).

Hon. A. P. MacEwen.—Mr Ryrie and gentlemen, as I have had a good deal to do with this bill and have been intimately connected with it, I think perhaps it would be desirable that I, holding the position I do as representative of the Chamber of Commerce in the Legislative Council, should take the opportunity of explaining my views and reasons at this meeting. And I hope that whatever the result of this discussion may be—whether it leads to the bill being approved of by a majority or not—at any rate that it may be productive of some good. I can say fully as regards the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce and myself, that we have not interested ourselves in this matter with the view of hurting in any way the commercial interests of any individual firm or person in this Colony or treading in any way on their toes. I may say, shortly, that when I was elected as member of the Legislative Council for this Chamber it was represented to me by one of the most influential shipping firms in the East, or even, I may say, in the world, that it would be a very desirable thing that some official record or statistics of the actual trade of the port should be kept. I was urged to endeavour to get the Chamber of Commerce to move in the matter. Speaking for myself I may say similar requests have been made to me—and I am sure I may say the same with regard to others connected with the trade of the port—by agents in various commercial centres by whom astonishment has been expressed that in one of the leading British Colonies there should be such a total absence of such records. A Sub-committee of the Chamber of Commerce was formed to deal with the matter, of which I may mention that I was not myself a member and after some time elapsed it was deemed by them desirable that this measure should be carried out. The Government was approached on the subject, and for the benefit of those gentlemen present who are not members of this Chamber, I shall read the correspondence which took place:

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong, 1st June, 1887.

Sir,—I am requested by the Chamber to bring to the notice of Government the great necessity that exists for providing some form of legislation to ensure, in the absence of a Custom House, the Registration of the Imports and Exports of the Colony, and the Committee feel that the importance of the measure to those interested in the trade of Hongkong will be accepted as sufficient cause for their suggesting this subject for the consideration of Government.

The Committee desire me to say that, an Ordinance dealing with the entry and clearance of goods is now in force in the neighbouring free Port of Singapore, the chief points of which are that, the Governor in Council has power to make, vary, and revoke all regulations for the Registration of all goods landed, shipped or transhipped in that Colony; it provides that the Regulations (under the Ordinance) shall be published in the Government Gazette, and it imposes a penalty for each breach of the Regulations.

Under the Regulations, written declarations according to prescribed forms, are required to be made within a fixed period to the Registrar of Imports and Exports giving details of all inward and outward cargoes, and the onus of making these returns is thrown upon the Importer and Exporter.

In the opinion of the Committee a similar scheme would be practicable here and it is evidently due to be initiated by the Government, I am desired to respectfully request that the Draft of a Bill and the Rules under it may be prepared and submitted to the Chamber, in order to afford the Members an opportunity of offering suggestions on points of detail. I have done so.

A. P. MACEWEN, Vice-Chairman.

The Hon. F. Stewart, I.L.D., Acting Colonial Secretary.

Motion by the Acting Attorney General.

It would be easy to draft an Ordinance on the lines of the Singapore Legislation but before doing so, I would submit some difficulties which occur to me.

Incorrect statistics would be worse than non-statistics at all, and therefore if an Ordinance is passed it should be made as efficacious as possible.

The Ordinance would enact:—

1. That certain returns or statements should be furnished by the importers.

2. Penalty for not furnishing returns.

3. Penalty for furnishing false returns.

4. How to ascertain whether the returns are correct or not.

Should he have power to require the

persons furnishing the return to swear to the truth of it or should he have power to inspect, or to require the production by the importer of such invoices or documents as he should deem necessary?

An Ordinance enacting merely a penalty for not furnishing returns, would practically be useless without some power of control or inspection. Would the Mercantile community approve of this? Could not the Chamber of Commerce try what could be done if they asked all importers to furnish to the Chamber the returns or statements.

Gentlemen, I hope all of you here have read this bill and also the schedule attached to it. I may mention in the first place that it was introduced having in this matter by representatives of Government doing business in this Colony. They had grave objection to this bill, and I must say I have the same myself. I have objected to it from the first and on that point I may refer you to the remarks I made at this time last year at the general meeting of the Chamber of Commerce. I have always considered the bill impracticable, or, if practicable, it would involve a very considerable expense and a very considerable amount of trouble to importers and exporters, perhaps more especially to importers, because as a rule there is very little difficulty in obtaining returns of export cargoes, I mean to Americans or European ports; these in fact can be gathered by this Chamber. But to importers of goods of a complicated nature, or of very small packages—which I have sometimes seen three or four different descriptions of goods—I think it would entail an infinity of trouble. I also think that the restrictions it would impose on agents of steamers in this Colony are entirely unwarantable. In fact I can't see what the good of such a bill in this Colony would be at all.

Of course it is stated that one great object of the bill is to place this Colony before the world and show what a large business is done here. Well, gentlemen, I think the world generally, the monetary centres at all events, where loans might be raised, know pretty well the position of the Colony and that it does a very considerable amount of trade. (Applause). As to the quantity of trade we have it from a late Governor that it is the fourth port in the world.

However, I dare say there are gentlemen here who can speak to the actual details of the bill much better than I can do, and I shall be glad to hear the views of some of all of them. (Applause).

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong, 16th July, 1887.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1023, of the 2nd instant, with its enclosure, and to reply, for the information of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, that in the opinion of the Committee there is no serious obstacle in the minute of the Attorney General, to provide for the system to be compulsory, it should be made efficacious.

Is there any use requiring returns to be furnished if we have no means of checking them and if false returns may be sent in with impunity?

E. J. ACKROYD.

30th June, 187.

Well, gentlemen, this received the very serious attention of the Committee of the Chamber, and the following reply was sent:—

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong, 16th July, 1887.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1023, of the 2nd instant, with its enclosure, and to reply, for the information of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, that in the opinion of the Committee there is no serious obstacle in the minute of the Attorney General, to provide for the system to be compulsory, it should be made efficacious.

If the Committee are rightly informed, the Customs in Great Britain are dependent on the bona fides of those who make declarations for the entry and delivery of goods; they have power to inflict penalties in the case of wilful misrepresentation, and the same system should apply here.

The Committee think the Superintendent of Imports and Exports should have the power not only to order the production of documents but also to inspect the goods for themselves.

Mr Ho Angel said that the Chinese community had carefully considered this Bill and had resolved to oppose it. He had seen 42 different merchant houses in Hongkong, and they were all against the Bill.

Mr Woodin said that the Chinese were not in favour of the bill, and he had a talk with them.

Mr George said that the Chinese were not in favour of the bill, and he had a talk with them.

Mr Vaucher, although I did not approve of it, agreed.

Mr George said that in the absence of Mr Vaucher, who arrived before the meeting finished, he would ask for information with regard to the tender for the Naval Yard.

The Chairman said he considered that to be a detail of management which it was scarcely competent to discuss at a public meeting.

There being no further questions, the Chairman then proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr George seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr George proposed that Messrs E. L. Woodin, H. Crawford, J. D. Hutchinson, and D. McCulloch be re-elected as Consulting Committee.

Mr Joyce seconded and the motion was adopted.

Mr Woodin proposed that Mr Vaucher be re-elected auditor.

Mr McCulloch seconded and the motion was agreed to.

The Chairman intimated that the dividend warrants would be ready to-morrow.

Mr Woodin strongly supported the Bill, maintaining that the statistics of the imports and exports of the Colony would be of great advantage to merchants and the revenue would be increased by the collection of the monthly statistical reports.

Mr MacEwen said that the bill would interfere with the Legislative Council, and that they would certainly obstruct the Chinese, who would be greatly annoyed.

Mr MacEwen said that the bill would be of great service to the Chinese.

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